Analytical Causations

I. The Enlightenment and the Birth of Modern Politics

- **The Scientific Revolution’s Impact on Thought:** The emphasis on reason and rationality in the physical sciences caused thinkers to apply these same principles to human institutions and epistemology.
- **Governmental Corruption and Locke’s Response:** Because John Locke witnessed the misuse of power by corrupt kings, he developed the theories of natural rights and the consent of the governed.
- **The Theory of the Natural Contract:** Locke asserted that because humans are born with rights to life, liberty, and property, the government enters a contract to protect them. This caused a shift in political philosophy, establishing that if a ruler fails to protect these rights, the people have the duty to overthrow that government.
- **Censorship and the Rise of Salons:** As church and state authorities attempted to use imprisonment and death to control information through censorship, Enlightenment thinkers were forced to spread their ideas orally. This led to the creation of salons, private social gatherings often hosted by women, which became the primary engines for influencing public opinion.
- **The Separation of Powers:** Baron de Montesquieu believed that because rulers have a tendency to misuse absolute power, the functions of government should be divided into legislative, executive, and judicial branches. This causal logic was adopted by the United States to ensure that no one branch could dominate the others.

II. The Era of Global Revolutions (1750–1900)

- **The Seven Years War and Colonial Taxation:** Because Great Britain incurred massive debt while winning the Seven Years War, the monarchy began taxing American colonists to pay for the conflict.
- **The Proclamation of 1763:** King George III’s decision to forbid settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains reneged on promises made to colonial soldiers, causing intense resentment.
- **The American Revolution:** The combination of Enlightenment ideals regarding natural rights and anger over "taxation without representation" caused the colonies to break from Britain and establish a republic.

- **Economic Ruin and the French Revolution:** Wasteful spending on wars and a deficit-spending government broke the French economy, causing the Third Estate to demand equality and liberty.
- **The Tennis Court Oath:** Because King Louis XVI locked the Third Estate out of their meeting room, they gathered on an indoor tennis court and pledged to remain until they drafted a new constitution.
- **Famine and the Reign of Terror:** Under the immense pressure of foreign wars and internal famine, the French Revolution took a radical turn, causing a period of mass execution and despotism known as the Reign of Terror.
- **Nationalism and the Latin American Revolutions:** The tendency of people to identify by shared race, culture, and language (nationalism) caused Creole leaders like Simon Bolivar to organize revolutions against weakened European imperial governments.
- **The Failure of Tanzimat Reforms:** Because Turkish and non-Turkish Muslims viewed modernizing reforms as being Western-influenced and "non-Muslim," the Ottoman attempt to create a unified national identity failed, leading to the loss of Balkan territories.

III. The Industrial Revolution and Its Consequences

- **Agricultural Innovation and Urbanization:** The use of enclosures and new technology like the seed drill allowed wealthy landowners to experiment with farming, which increased the food supply but forced displaced farmers to move to cities for work.
- **The Advantage of Geography:** Because Britain possessed abundant natural resources like coal and iron, as well as a stable banking system, it became the birthplace of the Industrial Revolution.
- **Mechanization and Global Dominance:** The invention of the spinning jenny and water frame mechanized textile production, causing Britain to surpass the previously dominant manufacturing powers of China and India.
- **The Steam Engine and Industrial Speed:** James Watt’s steam engine provided a high-power source from coal, which allowed factories to move away from rivers and accelerated the production of larger iron machinery.

- **The Impact of Railroads:** The creation of the railroad lowered transportation costs and boosted economic efficiency, which in turn required governments to standardize time across regions.
- **The Birth of the Working Class:** Because peasants were forced to find money through manual labor in factories, a new "Working Class" identity formed in opposition to the middle-class owners who exploited them.
- **Industrialization and the Rise of Marxism:** The widening gap between rich factory owners and poor laborers caused Karl Marx to argue that history was a struggle over private property, leading him to call for a violent worker revolution.
- **Socialist Policies as a Safety Valve:** To appease a discontented and sizable working class and prevent revolution, leaders like Otto von Bismarck employed socialist policies such as accident insurance and pension programs.

IV. New Imperialism and Resistance

- **The Demand for Raw Materials:** Massive manufacturing increases in Europe caused an exponential demand for raw materials like cotton, rubber, and metals, leading to the creation of "single-export economies" in the colonies.
- **The Scramble for Africa:** New technologies like quinine (to fight malaria) and steamships allowed Europeans to penetrate the African interior, causing nearly all European powers to hurry to claim territory for resources.
- **The Berlin Conference:** To prevent war between European powers over African territory, Otto von Bismarck organized a conference where Europeans literally divided the continent among themselves.
- **The Opium Wars:** Because the British could not find a good the Chinese wanted to trade for, they sold addictive opium to the Chinese population; when the Qing government seized the opium, it caused the British to take military action.
- **Social Darwinism:** The incorrect application of "survival of the fittest" to human races caused Europeans to believe they were biologically superior, providing a "scientific" justification for imperial conquest known as the "White Man's Burden".

- **Commodore Perry and the Meiji Restoration:** The threat of U.S. gunboat bombardment forced Japan to open its trade; this humiliation caused Japanese leaders to overthrow the shogunate and rapidly mimic Western industry and military tactics.

V. The 20th Century and the Modern World

- **MAIN Causes of World War I:** Tensions caused by Militarism, Alliances, Imperialism, and Nationalism (MAIN) turned a regional assassination into a global industrial war.
- **Trench Warfare and Disillusionment:** The use of machine guns and barbed wire caused a stalemate on the Western Front, leading to massive casualties and a "Lost Generation" of psychologically damaged survivors.
- **The Russian Revolution:** Total war failures, overtaxation, and a lack of food caused the Russian people to overthrow the Tsar in favor of Vladimir Lenin’s Bolshevik party, which promised "Peace, Land, and Bread".
- **The Treaty of Versailles:** The decision to force Germany to take full blame for WWI and pay $400 billion in reparations caused extreme bitterness and economic ruin in Germany.
- **The Great Depression:** Overproduction in agriculture and the 1929 Stock Market Crash caused a global cycle of bank failures and mass unemployment.
- **Keynesian Economics:** The misery of the Depression caused governments to move away from laissez-faire policies and instead use government spending to create demand through public works.
- **The Cold War and Proxy Warfare:** Because "Mutually Assured Destruction" prevented the US and USSR from fighting directly, they engaged in "proxy wars" by supporting either communist or anti-communist forces in other nations.
- **The Green Revolution:** The development of chemical fertilizers and genetic engineering in the 1950s caused a rapid increase in the global food supply and a subsequent population explosion.
- **The Rise of Globalization:** The explosion of the internet and the reduction of trade barriers caused the connection of world economies,

leading to "knowledge economies" in developed nations and manufacturing-based economies in developing ones.